

In your CS paper assignment, you will need to put forward a thesis statement. A thesis statement is something that the writer claims is true, and the rest of the writing is set up as a logical argument of that statement's truth. In order for your argument to be deemed *excellent*, your thesis must be clear and based on sound historical reasoning. From there, your points must be presented clearly and in a logical structure. That can (and often should) mean a format other than the five-paragraph essay style taught almost universally in American high schools.

We'll talk about how to develop that structure later, but today's focus is the thesis statement. As when we thought about audience, you will practice giving a text a second look in order to consider the decisions a writer made and the effects of those decisions.

You have read Londa Schiebinger's chapter *Gender and Natural History*. This selection can teach us a lot about what a thesis statement can be in a historical argument. She's also quite clear about the ongoing process of discovery that a historical thesis tends to represent.

As an exercise toward better understanding theses, write one paragraph (4-6 sentences) that answers the following questions.

1. In your own words, what is Schiebinger's thesis statement? At what point in the piece does she most clearly articulate it, and why might that placement matter?
2. Assuming she did not awaken one morning and out of the blue think up this chapter (very doubtful), what do you think Schiebinger did to arrive at this thesis?